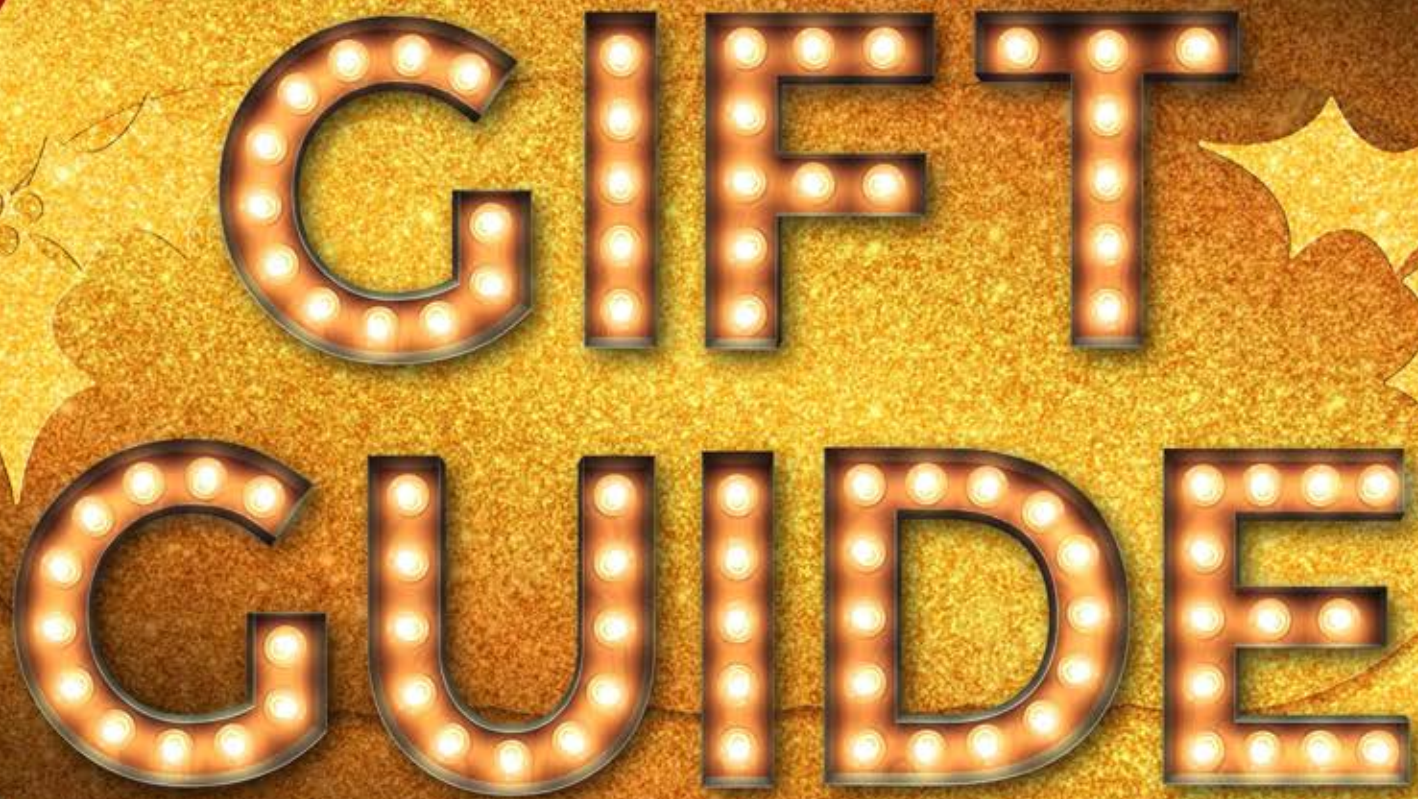


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GIFT GUIDE

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Elephant in the Room

How to make white elephant gifts not totally suck BY AMANDA SMITH

Every year the invitations roll in for white elephant parties, which leave some scratching their heads at what to bring. For novices or anyone who has experienced a past party failure, here are some **DOs and DON'Ts** for your holiday white elephant party.

1 **DO** know your target market. We all have those friends that have seen us at our worst, held our hair while we were puking or were our partners in streaking. With those friends, we can be as classless and tasteless with our gifts as we want to be. However, since most of our white elephant parties will not be with those people, **DON'T** gross everyone out. When in doubt, think, "Would my mom think this was funny – or that sweet old lady down the street?" So **DON'T** bring fake dog poo or personal hygiene products to just any white elephant party. Save those for the special ones.

2 **DO** give tacky pop culture gifts. That vintage New Kids on the Block button, *NSYNC Christmas CD (or, better yet, cassette) or Britney Spears poster will bring a nostalgic laugh to the party. **DON'T** touch religion, politics or social movements. Remember, white elephant parties can be filled with acquaintances that don't already know how awesome you are – don't be the person who ruined the party by offending half the guests. Use your blossoming stand-up political satire on another holiday.

3 **DON'T** bring cashmere to a T-shirt party or drop \$50 when you were supposed to spend \$5. And make sure the effort you put into your gift isn't going to put everyone else to shame, because no one likes an over-doer. **DON'T** obviously re-gift or grab the nearest T-shirt off your floor. **DO** take a moment to think about the gift and make sure it's something that you wouldn't mind being stuck with at the end of the night.

4 **DON'T** think for a minute your gift is going to stay a secret. If it's especially cool or horrible, there isn't a person in that room who won't be trying to figure out who it came from. **DO** think about your wrapping. The two presents that will get the most attention are the one wrapped in a brown paper bag and the one with wrapping that looks straight off of Pinterest. **DO** try to be the first gift chosen by being creative with your choice of coverings.

5 If all else fails, **DO** think booze. It may not be the most original, but even cases of PBR are popular at these parties. If you can't think of anything appropriate, unisex or theme fitting, no one is going to blame you for defaulting to the booze route. Almost everyone likes wine or whiskey, so you're pretty safe there – unless you are not. **DON'T** take booze if it is clearly not appropriate. Remember, the first rule of white elephanting is to always know your target market.

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Festive Felt

Learn needle-felting skills with Willamalane BY AMY SCHNEIDER

Unless explicitly discussed beforehand, *EW* doesn't recommend giving pets as gifts. Too often, holiday puppies and kittens grow up to become shelter dogs and cats.

We do, however, endorse checking out the cute critters made by needle-felt artist Leslie Seese or, better yet, you can learn to make them yourself at her class in December.

Needle felting is a craft that involves poking wool with very sharp needles to tangle the wool fibers so that they take on a desired shape — a heart, snowflake or reindeer, for example.

Seese, a volunteer at Fair Trade on Main in Springfield, says she first started needle felting hearts to give as gifts to victims of domestic violence. From there, she says, she started making more complex shapes.

"It's a medium that I just fell in love with," Seese says. "I'm a very tactile person, and I like when I can use one thing to make two- and three-dimensional things."

Seese says she's made bags, table covers, eyeglasses cases and other practical objects out of wool, but she's also crafted gnomes, turkeys, pumpkins and Christmas tree ornaments.

"You can basically make whatever shape you feel like making," she says. "They can be as detailed or as rough as you want. It's amazing what you can do with wool, and it's a renewable resource."

Needle felting also produces very little waste, Seese says, because often the colorful scraps of wool can blend into other projects, and it's all very portable. She takes her needle felting with her on trips to pass time while traveling.



LESLIE SEESE'S NEEDLE FELTING CLASS IS DEC. 5 AT SPRINGFIELD'S DORRIS RANCH

Seese recommends Eugene Textile Center on Jacobs Drive in Eugene for all felting needs. "They're a wealth of knowledge," she says.

In her Dec. 5 class at the cozy Tomseth House at Dorris Ranch in Springfield, Seese will teach beginning felters how to craft adorable figures to give as gifts or use as ornaments. The class is part of a "DIY" series provided by Willamalane Park and Recreation District and created by Kerry Jack, Willamalane's recreation coordinator.

"Needle felting is really easy and fun," says Jack, who started the craft a year ago. "Once I realized how easy it was, I went crazy with it and started making my own birds and gnomes and mushrooms. It's inexpensive and you don't have to be super creative to make something really cute."

The class is 9 am to noon Saturday, Dec. 5, at Dorris Ranch's Tomseth House, 205 Dorris Street in Springfield; \$13 for in-district residents of Springfield and \$15 for those out of district. Register at willamalane.org.

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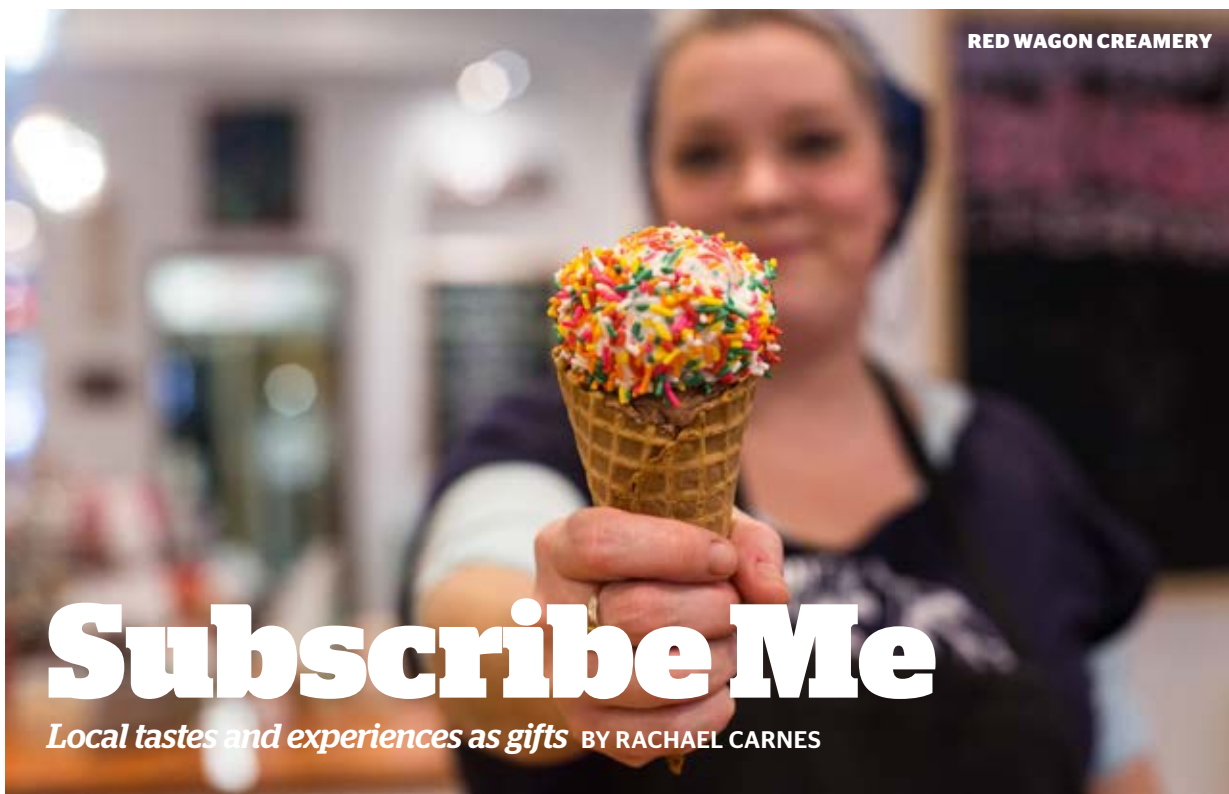


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Local tastes and experiences as gifts BY RACHAEL CARNES

PHOTO BY AMANDA L. SMITH

With the holidays just around the corner, finding the right gifts for family and friends can be a daunting task. But what if I told you this could be accomplished from home, in your pajamas, all while benefitting the local economy?

Shopping for experiences – through subscriptions and memberships – can be fun, and it helps support some of our community's most important cultural and culinary institutions.

This town is chockfull of the arts, and most theater and dance companies are only too happy to assist you with purchasing season tickets. All of the Hult Center's resident companies – including the Eugene Ballet

Company, the Eugene Opera, the Eugene Symphony, Ballet Fantastique, the Oregon Bach Festival, The Shedd Institute and the Eugene Concert Choir – offer such deals.

Many independent theater companies, such as Oregon Contemporary Theatre, Radio Redux, Very Little Theatre, Cottage Theatre and Actors Cabaret of Eugene, also offer standalone and season tickets.

Worried you'll pick the wrong dates? Don't worry: Box office managers have your back. Just work with them to purchase tickets as a gift and they'll often accommodate the intended recipient with the performance dates they require. Simple, sustainable and, again, you're in your slippers.

If the performing arts don't fit the bill, consider a membership to one of the many museums in town: The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, the Lane County Historical Museum and the Science Factory all offer individual and family memberships.

And here's a super bonus: Many museum memberships, such as the Science Factory's, are applicable at other museums in their network around the state and even around the country. So you can flash that Science Factory membership card and gain free or deeply discounted admission to scads of other institutions – a boon for any family that travels.

Maybe vegetables are your thing. Broccoli, carrots, a nice winter squash: This valley is the fertile crescent of the state, after all, and we're rich with Community Supported Agriculture, or CSAs. There are almost too many farms to mention, but the Willamette Farm & Food Coalition has a nice roundup of offerings on its website (lanefood.org). Farms vary in their membership requirements, pickup locations, etc., but whichever farm you select, trust that your gift recipient will be treated to some of the finest food grown anywhere.

Veggies don't turn your crank? Check out Port Orford Sustainable Seafood for yummy halibut and crab. You could even sign up your friends for local, grass-fed meats or dairy. And who wouldn't like an annual subscription to local legumes-of-the-month? Hello, favas!

Sometimes, though, you just want to share your love by giving people butterfat. And the good people at Red Wagon Creamery have a gift idea just for you: their pint-of-the-month club. For a mere \$80, your friend or family member will enjoy six months of exclusive, adventurous flavors, such as black truffle ice cream with pickled Oregon cherries and hazelnut brittle or Willamette Valley smoked Fontina ice cream with sponge cake, to be picked up at Red Wagon's cheery downtown store.

You know, come to think of it, you've been very good this year. If you decide to buy the ice cream subscription for yourself, we won't tell.

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Swap Don't Shop

One local mom's mission to make the holidays brighter BY RACHAEL CARNES

When the holidays roll around, families can feel the financial pinch as folks scramble to buy presents while still making ends meet. Local Kayla Powell saw a way to make holiday "shopping" fun again – and the annual "Swap Don't Shop" began.

"It started in 2012," says Powell, a wife and mom to three children. "My son was born in May with health problems, and so he and I would be up all hours of the night together. So I had lots of time to think and, as school was fast approaching, I started to stress about back-to-school shopping for my 6- and 7-year-olds."

She continues: "I thought, I can't be the only parent stressing. How awesome would it be if other families came together to swap their kids' clothes and shoes, getting new-to-them items and less to worry about purchasing at the store?"

Twenty-seven people attended Powell's first swap, held in her front yard.

But this year's Dec. 12 event will take place in a basketball court at the Willamalane Center in Springfield. For the first time, the center is charging Powell rent for the event, which will come out of her pocket.

"I would love to find a community partner that would be willing to help host," Powell says. "I run into dead ends sometimes with collecting donations because I'm not an actual nonprofit group. I'm just a mom and wife who loves to help others."

The Swap Don't Shop is a unique idea, Powell explains. "I've never been to an event like this, nor heard of one," she says, adding, "anyone who's anyone can come and participate. Bring out your gently used items [no holes,

stains, tears or missing pieces], bring a lot, bring a little to swap. I just want to make sure everyone is blessed."

In 2014, according to Powell, more than 150 families participated in Swap Don't Shop.

But how do "swappers" determine if other families will appreciate the treasures they're bringing in?

"I don't count how many items you bring or their value," Powell says. "I explain it to my kids – it's like a no-money yard sale. Items can be new or old, as long as they are in gently used condition."

Once everyone arrives, she says, their items are laid out and families can choose what they like.

"People will help people they've never met before find things they are looking for," Powell says. "I mean, how awesome is that?"

Find this year's Swap Don't Shop 2 to 4 pm Saturday, Dec. 12, with set-up at 1:15 pm on the basketball courts at the Willamalane Center, 250 S. 32nd Street in Springfield. Find more details about the event on the group's Facebook page (search: Swap Don't Shop). Admission is free.



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PHOTOS BY AMANDA L. SMITH

Handmade in Springfield

Willamalane's Holiday Marketplace features local gifts BY DAEMON LEE

Downtown Springfield is buzzing with revitalization and, as December approaches, the Willamalane Adult Activity Center will soon kick off its annual Holiday Marketplace, bringing together a variety of local artists and crafts people, each with their own twist on the idea of "handmade gift."

Willamalane special events coordinator Lynn Daniels-Anderson says that, in the past, the event was volunteer run, but these days it has evolved into a "community marketplace" with a variety of vendors.

Stephanie Kornman says she used to make a living in the corporate world, but she's been making art full time for the last two years as a multimedia collage artist and hasn't looked back. "I like to create art that helps people have a better day," Kornman says. "People give me a quote or a color palette and I go from there."

She uses mixed-media techniques to create a finished product that has 20 to 30 layers. The whole process involves paper, paint, ink, encaustic painting and more. Kornman does much of her business over the Internet, but she says she also likes going to local events. "They can see your work, it's right there, they can touch it," she says about the people she meets.

Brandi Finsand of Naturally Wick 'n' Body Works started out looking for something she and her friend could do at home – both are stay-at-home moms. They read about phthalates, a suspected carcinogen, and ended up learning how to make phthalate-free candles from palm oil wax. "Most candles out there are petroleum byproducts," Finsand says.

Over time, the project turned into something more.

"It's this new niche that we found, and we're taking that and running with it," she says about the popularity of their products, now carried by several stores in the area.

Sharon Willie makes and sells jewelry using gemstones or crystals. The process of creating is a "stress reliever," Willie says. "I like the feel of the gemstones and the different colors you can get out of them."

She recently added tote bags to her lineup, reversible

and made of cotton. "In Eugene it's always nice to have those reusable bags," Willie says, and they make a good alternative to paper or plastic.

The marketplace is Wednesday and Thursday this year, Daniels-Anderson says, "which makes us unique because we're a mid-week holiday market." It's primarily an older crowd due to the fact that the center offers classes targeted at people age 50 and older, but all are welcome.

"Downtown Springfield, there's a lot going on," Daniels-Anderson adds, citing as an example the monthly Springfilm event at the Wildish Theater. Most recently, she says, the activity center hosted Jan Eliot, creator of the *Stone Soup* comic strip, as part of its popular Lunch and Learn series.

The Holiday Marketplace is 9 am to 6 pm Dec. 2-3 at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C Street in Springfield. It's not to be confused with Eugene's Saturday Market Holiday Market, which runs weekends now through Dec. 20 as well as Dec. 22-24.



STEPHANIE SMITH (LEFT) AND FINSLAND WITH THEIR PHTHALATE-FREE CANDLES

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GIFT GUIDE

Local gift ideas for everyone on your list BY AMANDA SMITH

What's this? Twinkly lights wrapped around trees? Christmas songs in stores? People with an inherent lack of holiday cheer raging about red coffee cups? We must be nearing December!

It's a time of rampant commercialism, but don't fear — by buying local, you can find one-of-a-kind gifts for loved ones while also making a contribution to Lane County's economy. We've rounded up some of our favorite gift ideas for all the eclectic characters in your life. Dive in and see what's out there.

Track Town Enthusiast

They run the Eugene Marathon every year and know every inch of Pre's Trail, while you only run if you are being chased.

Swell Bottles can be picked up at **Title nine** at 5th Street Market (541-343-1574). As the name suggests, Swell Bottles are pretty, well — swell. They can keep 17 ounces of liquid cold for 24 hours or warm for 12 hours. Swell Bottles are available in four colors for \$35. With the ability to keep liquid at the perfect temperature for hours, these bottles may be the perfect gift for anyone on your list who drinks liquid.



SWELL BOTTLES

deFUNKit will keep your runner smelling fresh and clean. deFUNKit, made by a local Eugene company, will remove strong odors and keep those odors away on synthetic and natural fabrics. According to deFUNKit, its product will keep the stink at bay for 20 launderings for \$10.95. Visit defunkit.com or purchase it at **Eugene Running Company**, 116 Oakway Center in Eugene (541-344-6399).

LED LENSER NEO HEADLAMP



Your favorite runner will love the **Led Lenser NEO headlamp** which you can order from **Mazama Sporting Goods**, 1055 Bailey Hill Road in Eugene (541-484-9993). The NEO is lightweight and bright, as well as offering a blinking red light on the rear, allowing your favorite runner to see and be seen from all directions. At 1.9 ounces, the NEO is so lightweight it is barely noticeable. The NEO is also water-resistant, which is important for Eugene runners who don't shy from the weather.



YARN HOLDER

CERAMIC YARN BOWL

Knit Whit

They turn rolls of yarn into delicate sweaters, but since you don't know a bind off from a drop stitch, you may not know where to start shopping for your favorite Knit Whit.

Soft Horizons Fibre at 412 E. 13th Ave. in Eugene (541-343-0651) offers beautiful **ceramic yarn bowls** (\$30.50). Yarn bowls stop balls of yarn from rolling away, knotting or becoming a general mess. If you are looking for something more unique and very Eugene, ask about the **lazy Susan yarn holders** (\$74.95). Soft Horizons Fibre has beautiful handcrafted lazy Susan yarn holders that are made from the 100-year-old tree that used to stand in front of their building.

The **Knitting Shop** at 2811 Oak Street (541-434-0430) offers a beautiful **birch knitting needle set** (\$86.70) with interchangeable needles from size 4 to 11, including the interchangeable cord lengths. The birch sets are expandable to be customized for each knitter.

Kiddos

Waking up to a brand-new bike for Christmas is a childhood memory for many. **Strider Balance Bikes** (\$99.99) from **Bambini**, 205 W. 5th Ave. in Eugene (541-485-1222), give the joys of bike riding to children from ages 18 months to 5 years. Strider bikes teach children balance without the worry of learning how to pedal — balance bikes are easier and more intuitive for children to learn, which makes pedaling easier when parents introduce pedals to their kids.

For your favorite miniature car enthusiast or engi-





SQUISHABLES

neer, the **Modarri** (\$24.95-\$59.95) car line will keep them busy for years to come (for ages 8-108). The Modarri cars found at **Dancing Weasel**, 30 E. 17th Ave. in Eugene (541-246-8781), received the *Popular Science* award "Best Toy in Show" at the North American International Toy Fair in 2014. With an included hex wrench, Modarri cars can be taken apart and rebuilt five ways and combined with other Modarri cars to create custom hybrids.

Squishables take adorable and smooshy to a whole new level. These 15-inch round stuffed animals, found at **Elephant Trunk** at 5th Street Market (541-342-8548), will fill little ones' arms with cuddly love.

Garden Lover

They have the flowers and tomatoes that everyone envies every year. While you can't tell a weed from a prize-winning petunia, you still want to make sure they have the perfect gift.

Spoiling a gardener couldn't be easier at **Gray's Garden Center**, 737 W. 6th Ave., Eugene (541-345-1569). You can put together a fun gift pack, including **Work Gloves** (\$6.99), a **Barebones Hori Hori Knife** (\$29.99), **Kneeler/Seat** (\$49.99) and new **Fleco Pruning Shears** (\$69.99). New garden shears are always a welcome gift to a gardener, and with proper care they can last for years.

Aside from that one neighbor who can be seen meticulously clipping his grass every day, no one likes mowing lawns. For those of us less than ecstatic to sacrifice our Saturday mornings to our lawn, the **Husqvarna Robotic lawn mower** at **McKenzie Power Equipment** at 4050 Main St. in Springfield (541-744-1776) is the perfect gift. Husqvarna's robotic mower is basically a Roomba for your yard. It will maintain up to a 1/3-1.25 an acre of grass (depending on the model) in any weather. It

will even maintain rough terrain and slopes up to 35 percent with a convenient control panel that allows you to set the mower and forget it. Both silent and environmentally friendly, the Husqvarna is by far the coolest lawn gadget you can buy this year. It does come with a steep price (starting at \$1,999.95) which, depending on the depth of your pocketbook, could be totally worth it.

At only \$0.27 a pound, the beautiful **basalt bird-baths** at **Lane Forest Products**, 3409 Franklin Blvd. (541-345-9085), may be easier on the pocket book. For \$45, you can snag a good-sized birdbath, perfect for any Eugenean's garden. If you are looking for something a little quirkier, you can buy an unusually shaped **"Pot Rock"** for \$37 per pound, to be used in the landscape outdoors or as a planter to make a fun indoor display using succulents or annuals. You can also get a decent sized rock for \$10 and plant a fun arrangement.

Home Bodies

Their home is straight off of Pinterest. Every knick-knack is a perfect reflection of their style. Infuse their perfection with a little of your own this year by picking a great gift for the holistic homemaker.

The **Volcanic Ash Namaste Jizo from My Spirit Garden** (\$29.99) at **Down to Earth**, 532 Olive Street in Eugene (541-342-6820), is a lovely and welcoming statue that is weatherproofed for both indoor and outdoor use. The statue, made from raw, natural, sustainable materials, is traditionally seen as a protector of children, women and travelers, and as a guardian of the soul. The **Beyond Borders Haitian Metal Art** (\$24.99) is made from recycled 55-gallon steel drums. These beautiful sculptures are great for the home or outdoors. They are made by artisans under Fair Trade Certified conditions, and each piece is cut, decorated, shaped and smoothed by hand.



VOLCANIC ASH NAMASTE JIZO



HAITIAN METAL ART



MODARRI CARS



HUSQVARNA ROBOT LAWN MOWER

**TROPICAL SALVAGE
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You'll see the imprint of the artisan's name proudly hand-chiseled in each piece of art.

Illuminate their home with **The Spaceman** (\$50) online at alampdesign.com or at **Heritage Dry Goods**, 861 Willamette Street in Eugene (541-393-6710). Created by Eugene local **Erol Chandler**, this small accent lamp is the perfect addition to any home. A rounded walnut hardwood base supports a chrome half-dome bulb that reflects light outward and downward for amazing ambient light perfect for a desk or side table.

A **Tropical Salvage wooden bowl** (\$49), hand carved in Indonesia from wood salvaged from illegal logging operations by free-trade Indonesian workers, is a welcome piece to display in your loved one's home. The bowl with graceful lines and stunning colors, along with furniture pieces and teak vases, can be found at **Mosaic Fair Trade Collection**, 28 E. Broadway in Eugene (541-344-4000).

Foodie

Your favorite foodie's blood is a solid mix of truffle oil and sea salt. Food is their language and the perfect way to their heart this holiday season.

Beer is an easy go-to, especially here in Eugene. **The**

Growler Guys at 472 W. 7th Ave. in Eugene (541-653-8425) offer a fabulous gift pack for the beer drinker in your life. For \$34.99, your giftee will receive two craft pint glasses, a 64-ounce growler, two Growler Guys coasters and a free fill certificate. A few tastes of dozens of local beers and a nice growler fill will brighten anyone's holiday season.

A piping hot **Just-Like-Mama's Crawfish Pie** from **Fisherman's Market**, 830 W. 7th Ave. in Eugene (541-484-2722), pairs nicely with that ice-cold growler. The crawfish pie made quite the impression on Guy Fieri when he stopped by Fisherman's Market last year for an episode of *Diners, Drive Ins and Dives*. Fisherman's Market also offers box combinations of its food, frozen and ready to defrost and eat, starting at \$89. Fill their hearts while you fill your foodie's fridge this holiday season.

Make sure to save room on your list for dessert. **Toadstool Cupcakes** in downtown Eugene or on campus (607 E. 13th Ave.; 541-505-8009) has the perfection confection for the gastronome on your list. Toadstools are the original truffle cupcake, which combines a moist cake base with a ganache-covered creamy filling top. They are simply the epitome of decadence. The **tiny toadstools** will run you \$2.25 a piece or \$24.75 a dozen. With flavors like Coconut Snowball, Chocolate Cabernet, Confetti Cake, German Chocolate, etc. you are sure to



THE SPACEMAN



**JUST-LIKE-MAMA'S
CRAWFISH PIE**



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WILL LEATHER GOODS



find the perfect match. I'd suggest grabbing one for yourself – you deserve it.

Fashionista

Perfectly coiffed from head to toe, they are always on the cutting edge of fashion. Surprise them with luxuries found here in Lane County that will pamper them in perfect style.

Snuggled up by the fire, **The Euphoria Chemise by Tia Lyn** (\$49.95) at **ChaCha's Boutique**, 325 Main Street in Springfield (541-953-5920), will have her feeling fabulous in this environmentally friendly Modal and exclusive two-tone lace. She will be comfortable enough to curl up by the fire with a good book and supported enough by the built-in bralette to greet carolers at the door. This gorgeous piece can be found in beautiful silver or mint and has matching panties to create a lovely set. Available in sizes small to 3X.

For the fella in your life, snag a **Kent Messenger Bag** from **Will Leather Goods** (\$395). According to Will Leather Goods, the first leather bags were carried by men in the Greek and Roman empires, so they are an ode to the history of leathercraft by using only the highest grade vegetable-tanned leather and the most steadfast construction methods. While an average bag takes 75 steps on a factory line, a Will bag takes an average of 159 steps. You can fill the bag with the **Grady Travel Kit** for an additional \$85.

Long locks will love the **Wooden Hair Stick** (\$10) from **Sweet Skins Organic Apparel**, 782 Blair Blvd. in Eugene (541-543-7195). A simple two-prong hair stick made from sustainable dark Sono wood will twist locks up and keep them secure all day, while looking perfectly fashionable.

Very Eugene

Eugene is wonderful place to move to, and every year a lot people immigrate to our great city. Welcome the newbies this year with the things that are so very Eugene.

Started in 2009 in the Whiteaker neighborhood, **Off the Waffle** has quickly become a standard here in Eugene. Its unique **Liège waffle** with or without toppings is the perfect Eugene breakfast food. Off the Waffle offers its Liège waffles frozen for later enjoyment at home. A six-pack runs \$12. A nice stocking full of waffles would make any transplant or native Eugenean happy.

You are not a local until you've been to **Cafe Yumm!** It's a Eugene baptism of sorts. The clas-

sic **Yumm! Sauce** (\$4.75 for 8 ounces) is a standard here in Eugene. Fill that newbie's stocking with some of our local flavor or send some to a friend looking for a taste of home.

For a free gift for a new transplant or a fun idea for a longtime resident, the **Eugene Ale Trail Passport** is downloadable at eugenecascadescoast.org. Collect eight stamps from the eight participating breweries (including Ninkasi, Oakshire and Hop Valley) in the Eugene area and earn a 32-ounce mini growler. Then journey up to the Brewers Union Local 180 in Oakridge and earn the bonus 16-ounce stainless steel cup. No purchase is necessary at the local breweries, but I'd suggest sharing a pint or two at each stop. When you've completed your tour, head to the Adventure Center at the Lane County Visitors Center at 3312 Gateway Street in Springfield to collect your prize.

For the University of Oregon die-hard fan, a pair of **Apple Green Nike Oregon Receivers Gloves** (\$30) from **The Duck Store** on the UO campus are a perfect fit. The Nike Receiver gloves have silicone-tipped fingers for added grip, and both left and right hands have inductive fabric to allow you to use your touch-screen devices without de-gloving in the cold, all while allowing you to put your hands together to create the Classic Oregon "O" logo.



GREEN

Gift Certificates

You've scratched your head for hours trying to figure out the perfect gift and it's now the eleventh hour. A gift certificate is a great way to gift without having to read your giftee's mind.

Delivered Dish (previously Pony Express) is the perfect gift certificate to buy for your favorite gamer, student or new parents who can no longer easily leave their house. From Cafe Yumm! to sushi to beer, Delivered Dish will hook up your favorite shut-ins with a warm meal without having to leave their homes. Find gift certificates at delivereddish.com.

That person who has been amazing to you all year long deserves a little treat at **Bello Day Spa**, 2746 Shadowview Drive in Eugene (541-345-0551). From boozy pedicures to relaxing massages and manscaping, Bello has your loved ones covered with a day of well-deserved rest and relaxation.

If you can't think of anything to get them because all you want to do is stare into their eyes while talking about philosophy over a hot cup of coffee, a gift certificate to **Wandering Goat**, 268 Madison Street in Eugene (541-344-5161), is the perfect gift.

Pampered Pooches

Last on your list shouldn't be your pampered pups. They've spent the past year keeping feet warm, fetching balls, sleeping in all day and, of course, being stoked when you arrive home from work.

Spoil your dog with **Not for Dogs Only Treats** from thehealthydogstore.com or **Long's Meat Market**, 81 E. 28th Ave. in Eugene (541-344-3172). Created by a local couple for their dogs Seven and Kaya, Not for Dogs Only combines local ingredients from places like Glory Bee Foods, Willamette buckwheat flour and Red Ape cinnamon to make their organic, gluten-free treats. A 10-ounce bag of Banana Lavender Bones will set you back \$9.89 and will make your pup's belly very happy this holiday season.

Green (\$21.95-\$28.95), found at **The Healthy Pet** (2777 Friendly Street, Eugene, 541-343-3411), is a feeder shaped like a tuft of grass to turn your dog's meal into a challenging exercise. Simply scatter food across Green and your pup has to push the food out through the "blades of grass." The result is a prolonged eating time that reduces the risk of gulping and bloat. Green is made of hard phthalates-free plastic and can be used outside and cleaned in the dishwasher.

Sweet Life Holiday

Chocolate Bûche de Noël •
 Bourbon Fruitcake
 Loaf cakes
 Orange Brandy Cranberry
 Apricot Brandy Rum Eggnog
 Pumpkin Cranberry Walnut • ♦
 Gingerbread • ♦

Toffee (Salted Cocoa Nib or Almond Chocolate) •
 Assorted Holiday Frosted Shortbread
 Chocolate Fudge (assorted flavors) •
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 Gingerbread People • ♦
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